

Long-term management plan for herring in the Celtic Sea and Division VIIj, as agreed by the Pelagic RAC

1. Every effort shall be made to maintain a minimum level of Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) greater than 41,000 t, the level below which recruitment becomes impaired.
2. Where the SSB, in the year for which the TAC is to be fixed, is estimated to be above 61,000 t (B_{trigger}) the TAC will be set consistent with a fishing mortality, for appropriate age groups, of 0.23 (F_{target}).
3. Where the SSB is estimated to be below 61,000 tonnes, the TAC will be set consistent with a fishing mortality of:
$$SSB * 0.23 / 61,000$$
4. Where the rules in paragraphs 2 and 3 would lead to a TAC which deviates by more than 30% from the TAC of the preceding year, the TAC will be fixed such that it is not more than 30% greater or 30% less than the TAC of the preceding year.
5. Where the SSB is estimated to be below 41,000 tonnes, Subdivision VIIaS will be closed until the SSB has recovered to above 41,000 tonnes.
6. Where the SSB is estimated to be below 41,000 tonnes, and Sub-Division VIIaS is closed, a small-scale sentinel fishery will be permitted in the closed area. This fishery will be confined to vessels, of no more than 50 feet in registered length. A maximum catch limitation of 8% of the Irish quota will be exclusively allocated to this sentinel fishery.
7. Notwithstanding paragraphs 2, 3 and 4, if the SSB is estimated to be at or below the level consistent with recruitment impairment (41,000 t), then the TAC will be set at a lower level than that provided for in those paragraphs.
8. No vessels participating in the fishery, if requested, will refuse to take on-board any observer for the purposes of improving the knowledge on the state of the stock. All vessels will, upon request, provide samples of catches for scientific analyses.
9. Every three years from the date of entry into force of this Regulation, the Commission will request ICES and STECF to review and evaluate the plan.
10. This arrangement enters into force on 1st January, 2012.